

HEALTH
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PETWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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A N N U A L . R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

KENNETH N. MAWSON

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Department,
Comewell House,
Horsham.

To the Chairman and Members of the Petworth Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, a short Interim Report has been prepared for the year 1940. As in the previous year, the preparation has been delayed owing to conditions resulting from the War.

Reference to the figures in the Report indicates that healthy conditions have continued to prevail in the area and that no outbreaks of infectious disease occurred.

A campaign for Diphtheria Immunisation among the child population was commenced in the Autumn, and by the end of the year a total of 250 children had received a full course of treatment. This work was carried out in conjunction with the School Medical Officer, clinics being held at schools throughout the District. Only one case of Diphtheria occurred during the year, and it was found that this child had not been immunized.

A close watch has been kept on the water supply throughout the year, this very necessary supervision being facilitated by the fact that Mr. Green, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, also holds the post of Water Engineer.

The surprisingly low incidence of minor infections among the evacuated population, referred to in the last Report, continued in 1940. This fact, together with the steady return of evacuees to their homes in the earlier part of the year, made it unnecessary to retain Hilliers as an Evacuation sick-bay. This establishment was therefore closed in September, and the few children requiring admission after this date were sent to Ganavan at Cocking, by arrangement with the Midhurst Rural District Council.

I have to acknowledge the loyal and conscientious service of the staff of the health department, and the co-operation of the Officers of the Council.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

KENNETH N. MAWSON

Medical Officer of Health.

PETWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1940.

Section A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in Acres) 45,635

Registrar-General's estimate of:-

resident population mid 1940 9,490

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940)
according to rate books 2,513

Rateable Value £45,844

Sum represented by a Penny Rate £183

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
Live Births { Legitimate.....	112	53	59	} Birth Rate 12.64
{ Illegitimate.....	8	3	5	
Still Births	4	2	2	} Rate per 1,000 Total Births 33.3
Deaths	129			
England & Wales Birth Rate	14.6			Death Rate 13.6
West Sussex Rural Districts Birth Rate...	13.59			Death Rate 14.3
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis and other Puerperal Causes	0			Death Rate 11.86
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-				
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births				72.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births				77.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births..				00.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	11			
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0			
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0			
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0			

The chief causes of death were:-

Heart Disease	42
Cancer	11
Bronchitis	11
Cerebral Haemorrhage	10

Social Conditions.

The district is agricultural and residential in character being comprised to a great extent of large estates. Fruit farming is an important and growing industry in the Kirdford area and a fruit packing firm operates in Kirdford.

Employment was good throughout the year, the public contracting work for the Council and work on behalf of Government Departments absorbing all available casual labour.

Section B. General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1 Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(a) Medical.

Kenneth N. Mawson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health, part-time with Horsham Rural and Horsham Urban Sanitary Districts, together forming the North-East Combine Sanitary District.

(b) Sanitary Inspectors.

Norman Green, M.R.San.I., A.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.,
Senior Sanitary Inspector. (1. Certificate of The Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination joint Board for Sanitary Inspectors.
2. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.
3. Certificate of The Royal Sanitary Institute for Advanced Knowledge of the Duties of a Sanitary Inspector.
4. Certificate of The Institute of Hygiene (Honours) (Also Water Engineer and Superintendant of Sewage Works).

W. Parker, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector.
(1. Certificate of The Royal Sanitary Institute for Sanitary Inspectors. 2. Certificate of The Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods).

(c) Surveyor under Building Bylaws:-

F.J. Hodgson, L.R.I.B.A., A.I.Struct.E., (Part-time)

2. (a) Laboratory Facilities.

The new scheme, outlined in the last Report, whereby all routine bacteriological work is undertaken by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Christ's Hospital, continued to function very satisfactory.

The examination of specimens of sputum etc., for tubercle bacilli is carried out at the County Laboratory, Chichester.

The following table gives details of the work carried out at the Christ's Hospital Laboratory during the year:-

	<u>Jan-March.</u>	<u>April-June.</u>	<u>July-Sept.</u>	<u>Oct-Dec.</u>
Nose & Throat Swabs....	20	6	12	7
Faeces.....	-	-	-	-
Blood Examinations.....	1	-	1	1
Miscellaneous.....	4	-	4	8
Water.....	-	-	7	18

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

The Council took delivery of a new Ambulance on the 1st January, 1940. This vehicle has a large well-constructed body, mounted on a Morris chassis and has proved satisfactory. The Ford ambulance has been maintained in running order, and used in connection with the Council's A.R.P. Scheme. The duties of driver and attendant are undertaken by unpaid volunteers.



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Section C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. Water.

The provision of a comprehensive district water scheme commenced in March last year was continued throughout the year. By the end of the year practically all the mains were laid, the new reservoir had been completed and the construction of the new pumping station was well advanced.

A public supply through the new mains was afforded to Plaistow, Kirdford, Northchapel, Fittleworth and Stopham from the old low level reservoir and Wisborough Green and Loxwood from the new high level reservoir. The water for the latter supply was raised from the low level reservoir by means of a small pumping plant driven by a petrol engine pending the completion of the new pumping station.

The source of water remained the same throughout the year, being from a spring known as the Supplementary Spring near the main pumping Station. Samples were taken at frequent intervals throughout the year (generally fortnightly) and submitted for bacteriological examination. On only one occasion was Bacillus Coliform of the intestinal type present. The sample was taken on the 15th October, 1940 and the probable number of Coliform Bacilli, MacConkey 3 days 37°C was 7 per 100 cc. A sample taken at the same time from the supply mains in Petworth after chlorination shewed no Bacillus Coliform present. Samples from the mains in Petworth are submitted for bacteriological examination weekly and have been consistently satisfactory throughout the year. Chlorination at the Pumping Station is continuous during pumping hours irrespective of the results of the samples taken from the source of supply.

A sample taken from the public mains was submitted for chemical analysis in December and the following is a copy of the Analyst's report:-

2nd January, 1941

This sample yields the following results on Analysis:-

	Grains per Gallon.
Total Solids	15.0
Chlorine	1.7
Ammonia	0.0021
Albuminoid Ammonia	Absent
Nitrogen as Nitrites	Absent
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.21
Lead	Absent
Other metals	Absent
Total Hardness (Clark's Scale).....	9.0
Microscopic Examination	Mineral Matter.

From these results I am of opinion that this Water is free from contamination with sewage or injurious metals and safe to use for drinking purposes.

The degree of "hardness" is moderate, and the Water well suited for general domestic uses.

for R. A. CRIPPS & SON, LTD.

(Signed) H. Eardley Groves.

ANALYST.

The total length of new water mains laid during the year was 23,672 yards, all part of the district scheme. No extensions to existing mains were laid during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No developments took place during the year.

Rivers and Streams.

Housing inspections having been discontinued except in special circumstances, the amount of re-drainage, provision of cesspools, and filters was small. Where pollution was serious or conditions gave rise to complaint, action was taken to have improvements effected.

Closet Accomodation.

One or two conversions from pail closets to water closets were made during the year in the unsewered areas as a result of re-conditioning works under the Housing Acts.

In the sewered areas two cottages with pail closets still remain, owing to their low level in relation to the sewer.

Improvements in this particular matter will doubtless remain in abeyance until the end of the war, particularly as the schemes in hand for providing sewerage in some of the villages has been stopped.

Number of closets converted to water carriage system:-

1936	.....	14
1937	.....	11
1938	.....	5
1939	.....	1
1940	.....	9

Public Cleansing.

A refuse collection service covers the whole of the district with the exception of a few isolated houses. The frequency of collection varies according to the nature of the area, being twice weekly in the more densely populated parts of Petworth, once weekly on the outskirts of the town, fortnightly in all villages and monthly in the more sparsely populated parts of the district.

Two refuse dumps are still recognised in the district for the convenience of people living in inaccessible parts and these are cleared as necessary.

The burning of such combustible refuse as had no salvage value was continued in an incinerator at the refuse pits.

Cinders and ash are removed for brickmaking; tins, bottles, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, old batteries, etc., have been sorted and are sold to merchants for return to industry.

Waste paper is collected and sorted in a number of village depots and sold. No paper is collected by the refuse vehicle on its ordinary rounds.

Bones are returned to the butcher in some parts of the district, this being organised by the various Women's Institutes.

The Council have not undertaken the emptying of cesspools.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number of Notices served under the Public Health Acts:-

1.	Informal	42
2.	Statutory	2

Result of Notices served:-

1.	Informal	36
2.	Statutory	0

Inspections etc.

Complaints received	4
Miscellaneous inspections	29
Re-inspections	9

Factories:-

Number on Register:

(a) Where mechanical power is used	27
(b) Where mechanical power is not used	30

Bakehouses:-

Number on Register	16
Underground	0
Inspections	51
Number of defects found	0
Number of defects remedied	0

Other Factories:-

Inspections	47
Number of defects found	1
Number of defects remedied	0

Butchers Shops.-

Inspections	233
Number of defects found	0
Number of defects remedied	0

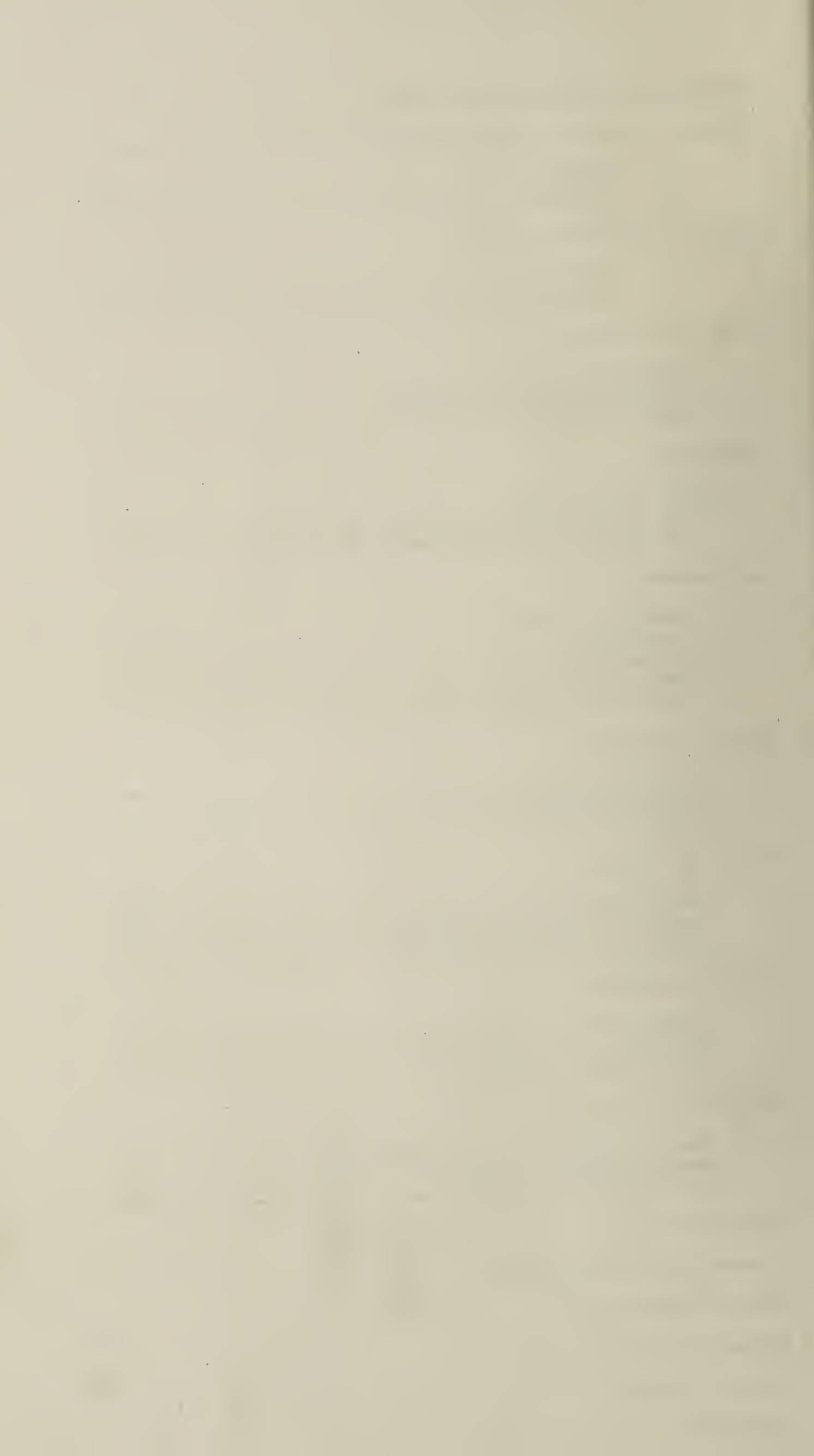
Slaughterhouses:-

Registered	6
Licensed	0
Inspections	61

Moveable Dwellings:-

Number Licensed	16
Number refused licences	3
Inspections	44

Fried Fish Shops.	Inspections	41
Fishmongers & Poulterers	"	39
Public Conveniences	"	59
Refuse Collection	"	67
Refuse Disposal	"	71
Sewerage	"	102



Water Supply	Inspections	817
Drainage	"	90
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits		29
Miscellaneous Housing Visits		34
Privies converted to Pail Closets		0
Privies converted to Water Closets		0
Pail closets converted to Water Closets		9
Houses connected to main drainage:-		
(a) Newly built		21
(b) Existing		1

Water:-

Approvals granted in respect of new houses..	32
New houses connected to main supply	27
Existing houses connected to main supply ...	247
Samples taken from private supplies for chemical analysis	33
Number of samples not found satisfactory....	25
Visits of enquiry into Infectious Disease	52
Number of rooms disinfected (Formaldehyde Fumigation	33
Miscellaneous visits in connection with Infectious Disease	20

Shops and Offices:-

Number of shops inspected (Shops Act 1934)..	86
Number of Offices inspected	0

Camping Sites:-

1. Number of sites in the district used
 for camping during 1940 0
2. Number of sites in the district
 Licensed (P.H.A. 1936) 0
3. Estimated number (maximum) of campers resi-
 dent in the area at one time during the
 summer season 1940 30

Smoke Abatement

There is no industry in this district which uses steam power or other industrial process likely to cause a nuisance from smoke etc.

Swimming Baths & Pools.

There is no public swimming bath in the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

One house has been reported during the year to be infested with bed bugs due to evacuees from London. After two fumigations with "Cimex" no further complaint was received.

Some bedding has also been treated by steam disinfection after being used by evacuees, owing to the suspected presence of bugs or fleas.

No examination of furniture etc. is undertaken before or after tenants move into Council houses.

Schools.

There are thirteen public elementary schools in the district; many of which are old and of unsatisfactory type. The water supplies, except at Petworth, Loxwood and Fittleworth, are obtained from wells on the premises. At Petworth, trough water closets are provided. In the other schools, earth pail closets.

All cases of infectious disease known to the Head Teacher are notified on a special form to the District Medical Officer of Health, and a duplicate sent to the School Medical Officer.

SECTION D.

Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects(under Public Health or Housing Acts 70
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..116
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932..... 4
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose: 16
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... 0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 45
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 41
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-
A:- Proceedings under Sections 9,10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses, in respect of which notices were served, requiring repairs 0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
(a) By owners 2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners..... 0

B:- Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 2
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) By owners 0
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

C:- Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 7

D:- Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- (1) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0
- (2) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV - Overcrowding:-

- A:-(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 0
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein..... 0
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein..... 0

B:- Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year 2

- C:-(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 2
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 21

D:- Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding..... 0

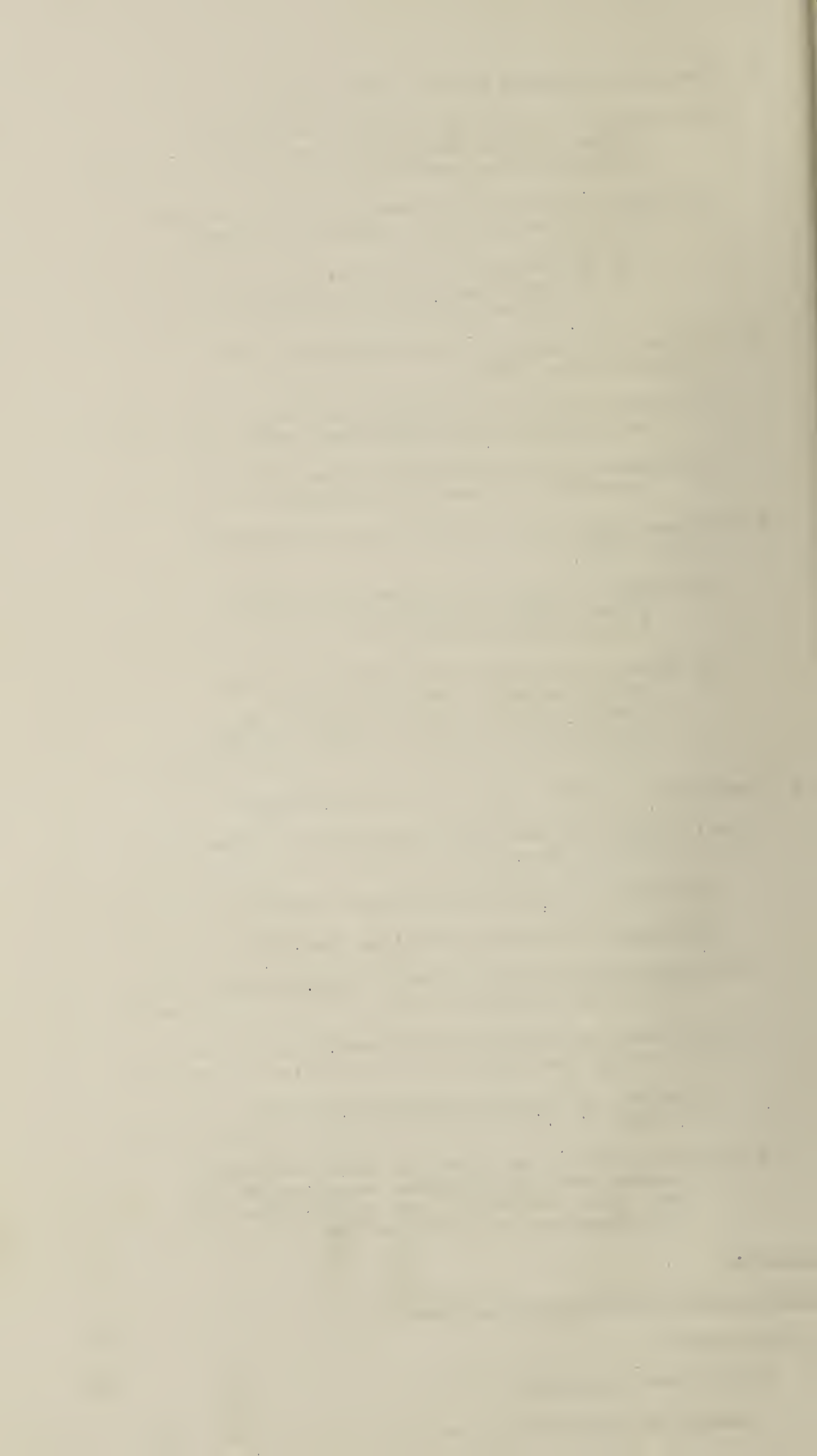
SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

1. Milk Supply:-

Dairies and Cowsheds:-

Number on Register146



Wholesale:-

(a)	Tuberculin Tested	8
(b)	Accredited	41
(c)	Pasteurised	0
(d)	Others	83

Number of Inspections 666

Dairymen (Retail):-

Number on Register 57

(a)	Tuberculin Tested	4
(b)	Accredited	14
(c)	Pasteurised	1
(d)	Others	38

Number of Inspections 646

Number of notices served under Milk and
Dairies Order, 1926:-

(a)	Statutory	0
(b)	Informal	21

Complied with:-

(a)	Statutory	0
(b)	Informal	16

2. Meat and Other Foods.

Butchers' shops and other places where food is
prepared or sold are inspected frequently.

Premises registered under Food and Drugs Act
for the preparation or preserved food etc... 14

Premises registered as Ice Cream Dealers..... 7

Slaughtering throughout the year has taken place at
the Government Central Slaughterhouse at Horsham,
although three cattle were killed locally in an
emergency, being injured by reason of enemy action.
The Slaughterhouses in the district are closed.
Inspections have been made from time to time to
ensure that they were not used.

3. Shell Fish (Molluscan):-

There are no shell fish beds or layings within the
District.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

There were no serious outbreaks of infectious disease
during the year.

Details of notifications received are set out below, the
figures in brackets indicating the number admitted to
hospital for treatment. It is neither necessary nor desir-
able to arrange for all cases of Scarlet Fever to be hospi-
talized, and where it is possible to isolate the patient,
arrangements are made with the practitioner concerned to

isolate the case at home:

Scarlet Fever	16	(9)
Diphtheria	1	(1)
Anterior Polio-Myelitis	3	(3)
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	(-)
C.S.M.....	2	(2)
Pneumonia	15	
Measles	63	
Whooping-Cough	8	

Tuberculosis

1940

(a) The number of cases added to the Register during the year 5

Pulmonary Males ...	4	Non-Pulmonary Males...	1
Females ...	-	Females...	-
	<u>4</u>		<u>1</u>

There were three deaths from Tuberculosis; 2 pulmonary (Both male); 1 non-pulmonary (Female).

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the 31st December, 1940 was 86.

